

Sisters and Brothers, blessed are those who fear the Lord.

### Covenant Life

- We will have our Community Gathering today at 4pm in the MSM gym. We will follow all CDC guidelines and other specific details were sent this past week in a separate email.
- We continue our 2021 Promise Drive and you can submit your inputs online [here](#) or mail in or contact Sue Wagner.
- Please join your Area's online events and contact your Area Coordinator if you need information or assistance.
- Please donate online at [www.GodsDelight.org](http://www.GodsDelight.org) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

**Reflection** - As I pondered the second reading from 1 Thes 5:1-6 I found myself focused on Paul's admonition to the Thessalonians not to sleep. What was Paul referring to? Clearly, he was not talking literally but addressing those who may have become overly confident. His words were to stay alert and sober. What is he specifically calling us to?

The answer will be personal to each of us but worthy of our meditation and reflection. The context of the discussion was to be prepared for the day of the Lord. The point that Paul was trying to get across is that we tend to forget our mission and calling and focus too much on our here and now. He was particularly worried about a time of peace and security dulling our senses. While such a time seems foreign to us now amidst a global pandemic the point is eternally relevant.

The strong and clear point that Paul wants to share is that we are not a people of darkness, that we are not a people who neglect who we are, who we are called to serve, what mission we have been entrusted with. There are many interpretations of what is night and what is darkness. We need only turn the page of a newspaper (for those of us who still read a paper 😊) or turn on any media and we will hear and see examples of living in the night and living in darkness. Paul's proclamation was that we are children of the light, children of the day. This is who we are.

This is where we are called to live. God needs us sober and alert, distinguishing the day from the night, light from darkness and never compromising.

What does it mean to be children of the light? One answer is spelled out in Gal 5: 22 to live the fruits of the Spirit. For another answer we can look to our covenant: "to give our whole lives together, to follow His Son, Jesus, to live more and more fully in the Holy Spirit, to love and serve Him by daily prayer and sacrifice, to praise and worship Him always, forever seek His face, to know and serve the truth of His word, the joy, peace and love of the Holy Spirit, to believe what He speaks to us and to be obedient to that truth of His Word, the guidance of His Spirit, to offer hospitality to those whom He sends us, to widen our hearts to those He adds to our number and to carry out the mission He has entrusted to us; to be people who always grow by His great mercy in the fervor of that first love He has given to us, He who is our all; to consecrate our lives to Him not simply as individuals, but as members of a people, members of The Christian Community of God's Delight."

Sisters and Brothers, we have each responded to this call and said Yes to Him and Yes to one another. We have said Yes to stay sober and alert and to be His witnesses as children of the day, children of the light and live out our covenant calling, day by day.

Let us pray: "Heavenly Father, I repent of the times I have focused on myself and lived in darkness. Today I proclaim myself Your child and henceforth to always live as a child of the day, a child of the light. I choose You. Jesus, be my friend and confidant and show me the way to You. Holy Spirit, empower my Yes, give me the fruits that I need to always live as a child of the light and be a 'light on the hilltop' to shine and witness for You. I want to be faithful to the mission, the calling, the covenant that I have made. And I need You, I love you, and recommit myself to You. Amen"

God bless,

David